

30. (Amended) An intravascular stent, comprising:
a plurality of connected rings each having a plurality of crests;
at least some of the rings having figure-eight-shaped ring portions;
means for forming at least some of the crests;
wherein at least a section of the stent includes a longitudinal pattern of a
repeated series of at least three adjacent figure-eight portions configured in substantially
the same orientation.

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-31 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 22-29 have been canceled. Claims 1, 13, and 30, have been amended to further clarify the invention. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following are respectfully requested.

Applicants are expressly grateful to the Examiner for granting Applicants' request for an interview relating to the Office action of March 4, 2003. Accordingly, a telephonic interview was conducted on May 14, 2003 between Examiner Baxter, Supervisory Examiner Milano, and the undersigned attorney of this paper. Proposed amended language to the rejected independent claims was submitted in advance and discussed in view of the cited art. Supervisory Examiner Milano suggested that the inclusion of the phrase "at least three adjacent" prior to the amended language "ring portions configured

in substantially the same orientation throughout the stent" would be sufficient to overcome the cited art.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference number "210" set forth in the specification. In response thereto, Applicants have submitted a revised drawing of the applicable figure (Fig. 8) with the appropriate revision being made in red ink. Please substitute the enclosed drawing for the respective originally filed drawing.

Specification

The specification has been objected to because of an informality relating to an incorrect designation of reference numbers indicated therein. In response thereto, Applicants have amended the relevant portion of the specification on page 14, lines 16 to 28, by changing "crests 646, 648" to "crests 746, 748."

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26, 30 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,491,718 B1 to Ahmad. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 1-21, 30 and 31, the Examiner asserts that Fig. 1 of Ahmad discloses the structural limitations of the presently claimed invention. In response

thereto, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13, and 30 to more clearly explain how the present invention is different from Ahmad. Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by Ahmad, which does **not** disclose figure-eight ring portions or any of the alternative ring configurations of the present invention. Rather, Figure 1 of Ahmad, for example, depicts a series of longitudinal rows of an interconnected repeated series of "S, S, reverse S, and reverse S" shapes along the longitudinal axis of the stent (see also Ahmad, col. 5, lines 53-55). The interconnected repeated series of S-shaped rings and reverse S-shaped rings are configured in such manner so that they are structurally different in orientation throughout the length of the stent. That is, the interconnected repeated series of S-shaped rings and reverse S-shaped rings are **not** in substantially the same orientation throughout the length of the stent due to the nature of the **reverse-S-shaped** rings being positioned immediately adjacent to **S-shaped** rings. Accordingly, it cannot be accurately said that the ring portions of Applicants' invention are structurally the same as Ahmad. Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, and 30, to further set forth this structural difference of the present invention. Thus, it is now believed by Applicants that the rejection of claims 1-21, 30 and 31, has been overcome.

Claims 22-23 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Ahmad. The rejection of claims 22-23 and 24-26, however, is now moot as Applicants have canceled these subject claims without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahmad in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,836,964 to Richter et al. The rejection of claims 27-29, however, is now moot as Applicants have canceled these subject claims without prejudice.

* * *


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present Amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge any further fees payable in connection with this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
Lisa A. Karczewski
Registration No. 53,096
Attorneys for Applicants

Enclosures: Transmittal Return Postcard
Drawing Sheet (4/8), including red markings

LAK:mjm

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 16 to 28, as follows:

Another embodiment, FIG. 14, is a 6-crown, 6-link partial stent pattern 710 with figure-eights 720. Like pattern 610, it is composed of one straight bar arm 750 and two non-linear bar arms 752 extending out from the upper and lower crests [646, 648] 746, 748 to form the figure-eight. Stent pattern 710 combines features of stent patterns 510 and 610. Pattern 710 uses the non-linear bar arms 752 to act as the links 754 between adjacent interior rings 740. Like stent pattern 510 however, the rings 741 at the end of stent 710 have their links 754 connected to an interior portion of the non-linear bar arm 752. Due to this unique configuration, the crests 746, 748 of the rings 741 in the interior of stent 710 are not connected circumferentially, but are connected longitudinally. Hence, the crests of the end rings 740 are connected both circumferentially to each other and longitudinally to the adjacent ring 740 of figure-eight elements. Although a straight link is used in this pattern, a non-linear link can also be used without compromising crimp profile.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please add reference number "210" to FIG. 8.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 13, and 30, as follows:

1. (Amended) An intravascular stent including a longitudinal axis and a plurality of connected cylindrical rings, [each ring having a plurality of crests,] comprising:

each ring having a plurality of crests such that a plurality of generally linear bar arms are connected in-between a plurality of nonlinear bar arms so that adjacent linear and nonlinear bar arms define the crests;

wherein the stent includes a longitudinal pattern of a repeated series of at least three adjacent ring portions configured in substantially the same orientation throughout the stent.

13. (Amended) An endovascular prosthesis having a plurality of rings, comprising:

linear bar arms connected in-between primary nonlinear bar arms and secondary nonlinear bar arms such that the adjacent linear and the primary nonlinear bar arms, and the adjacent linear and the secondary nonlinear bar arms, define crests within the plurality of rings;

ring portions shaped like a figure-eight; [and]

connecting links that connect the plurality of rings in a staggered configuration;

wherein the prosthesis includes a longitudinal pattern of a repeated series

of at least three adjacent figure-eight portions configured in substantially the same orientation throughout the prosthesis.

30. (Amended) An intravascular stent, comprising:

a plurality of connected rings each having a plurality of crests;

at least some of the rings having figure-eight-shaped ring portions; [and]

means for forming at least some of the crests;

wherein at least a section of the stent includes a longitudinal pattern of a repeated series of at least three adjacent figure-eight portions configured in substantially the same orientation.



Approved
 7/29/03

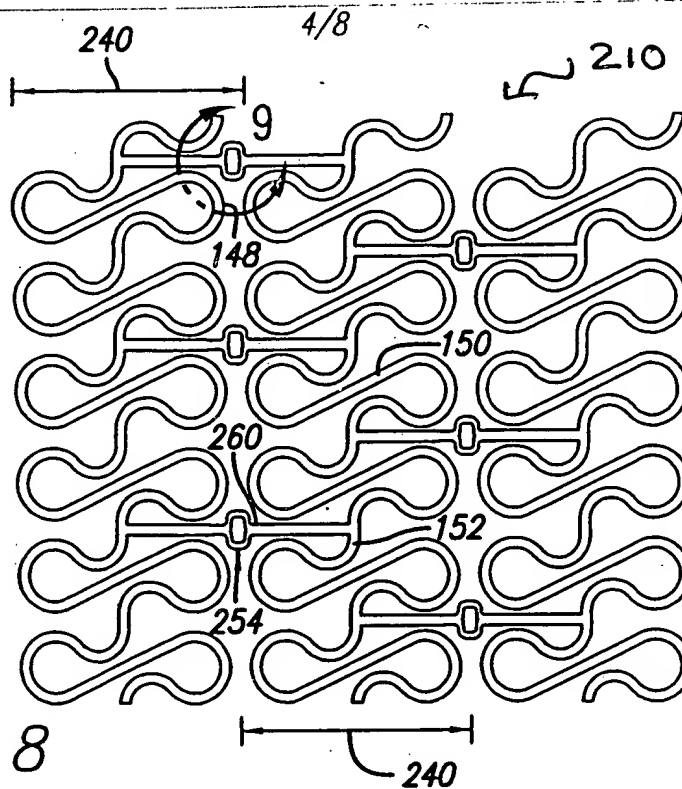


FIG. 8

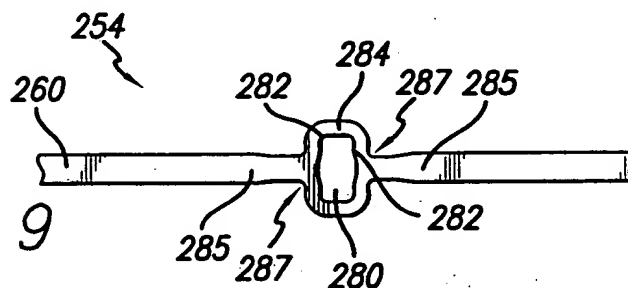


FIG. 9

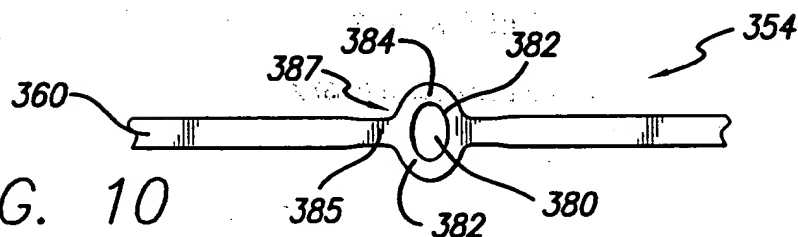


FIG. 10

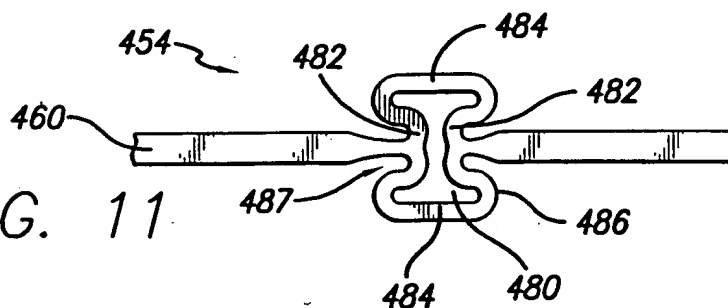


FIG. 11